

Please amend claim 57 and cancel claims 1-28, 31-56, 75-78, and 80-89 without prejudice as shown herein below.

1. Please cancel claim 1 without prejudice.
2. Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice.
3. Please cancel claim 3 without prejudice.
4. Please cancel claim 4 without prejudice.
5. Please cancel claim 5 without prejudice.
6. Please cancel claim 6 without prejudice.
7. Please cancel claim 7 without prejudice.
8. Please cancel claim 8 without prejudice.
9. Please cancel claim 9 without prejudice.
10. Please cancel claim 10 without prejudice.
11. Please cancel claim 11 without prejudice.
12. Please cancel claim 12 without prejudice.
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24. Please cancel claim 24 without prejudice.
25. Please cancel claim 25 without prejudice.
26. Please cancel claim 26 without prejudice.

27. Please cancel claim 27 without prejudice.

28. Please cancel claim 28 without prejudice.

Claim 29 canceled by previous amendment.

Claim 30 canceled by a previous amendment.

31. Please cancel claim 31 without prejudice.

- 32. Please cancel claim 32 without prejudice.
- 33. Please cancel claim 33 without prejudice.
- 34. Please cancel claim 34 without prejudice.
- 35. Please cancel claim 35 without prejudice.
- 36. Please cancel claim 36 without prejudice.
- 37. Please cancel claim 37 without prejudice.
- 38. Please cancel claim 38 without prejudice.
- 39. Please cancel claim 39 without prejudice.
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- 41. Please cancel claim 41 without prejudice.
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- 47. Please cancel claim 47 without prejudice.
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- 51. Please cancel claim 51 without prejudice.
- 52. Please cancel claim 52 without prejudice.
- 53. Please cancel claim 53 without prejudice.
- 54. Please cancel claim 54 without prejudice.
- 55. Please cancel claim 55 without prejudice.
- 56. Please cancel claim 56 without prejudice.

57. (Thrice Amended) A system for delivering information to a selected location from a transmitting location, said system comprising:

a transmission station operable at said transmitting location and adapted to transmit said information to an intermediate location; and

D, an intermediate station operable at said intermediate location and adapted to receive said information transmitted by said transmitting [means] station, wherein said intermediate station comprises:

a converter circuit adapted to electronically receive said transmitted information and to convert said transmission to electronic form if said transmitted information is not initially in electronic form; and

a reproducing circuit adapted to reproduce said information in human readable form, wherein said reproducing circuit also produces an indicia of payment authorizing delivery of said human readable information to said selected location.

58. The system of claim 57, wherein said intermediate location is selected according to proximity to said selected location.

59. The system of claim 58, wherein said intermediate location selection is accomplished automatically by said transmitting location through reference to address information with respect to said selected location.

60. The system of claim 57, wherein said intermediate location is selected according to proximity to said transmitting location.

61. The system of claim 57, wherein said converter circuit comprises:
circuitry adapted to accept electronic documents communicated utilizing different communication protocols.

62. The method of claim 61, wherein said different communication protocols include at least two protocols selected from the group consisting of:

- a standardized electronic mail protocol;
- a special purpose mail communication protocol;
- a standardized facsimile protocol;
- a standardized character based protocol; and
- a standardized packet based protocol.

63. The system of claim 57, wherein said converter circuit further comprises: circuitry adapted to determine delivery address information with respect to said selected location from information contained within said transmitted information.

64. The system of claim 63, wherein said converter circuit further comprises: circuitry adapted to verify the accuracy of said delivery address information.

65. The system of claim 57, further comprising:
means for including ancillary information with said transmitted information, said ancillary information being suitable for use by said receiving means in delivery of said transmitted information to said selected location.

66. The system of claim 65, wherein said ancillary information comprises:
means for funding the delivery of said transmitted information.

67. The system of claim 66, wherein said intermediate station further comprises:
an acknowledgment circuit adapted to produce an acknowledgment of receipt of said transmitted information; and
wherein said acknowledgment circuitry is further adapted to transmit said acknowledgment to said transmitting location, wherein said last mentioned portion of the acknowledgment circuit is inactive until said funding means is confirmed.

68. The system of claim 66, wherein said funding means includes at least a value data packet.

69. The system of claim 68, wherein said value is deducted from a credit stored at said transmitting location.

70. The system of claim 65, wherein said ancillary information includes a delivery address of said selected location.

71. The system of claim 70, wherein said converter circuit further comprises: means for verifying the accuracy of said delivery address information.

72. The system of claim 65, wherein said ancillary information includes a time of transmission of said document by said transmitting means, said time being provided by a secure time piece disposed at said transmitting location.

73. The system of claim 65, wherein said ancillary information includes specific delivery information regarding the delivery of said human readable information, indicating selection of at least one delivery option of a plurality of delivery options available for delivery of said transmitted information.

74. The system of claim 57, wherein said reproducing circuit is operable at least in part with corresponding circuitry disposed at said selected location.

75. Please cancel claim 75 without prejudice.

76. Please cancel claim 76 without prejudice.

77. Please cancel claim 77 without prejudice.

78. Please cancel claim 78 without prejudice.

Claim 79 canceled by previous amendment.

80. Please cancel claim 80 without prejudice.

81. Please cancel claim 81 without prejudice.

82. Please cancel claim 82 without prejudice.

83. Please cancel claim 83 without prejudice.

84. Please cancel claim 84 without prejudice.

85. Please cancel claim 85 without prejudice.

86. Please cancel claim 86 without prejudice.

87. Please cancel claim 87 without prejudice.

88. Please cancel claim 88 without prejudice.

89. Please cancel claim 89 without prejudice.